**Rubric for Evaluating MS Thesis or PhD Dissertation and Defense (Final Oral Exam)**

Committee Members, Readers and Students are responsible for being aware of this evaluation rubric in advance of the defense.

*(This page will be completed by Graduate Committee and a copy of the rubric will be distributed to the committee, readers and student just prior to the defense*)

## Major Advisor Name: Date of Dissertation Defense Dissertation Title

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| **Graduate Committee Members** |
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| **Thesis/Dissertation Readers** |
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At the conclusion of the defense, **each committee member and reader must complete the attached response sheets**.

For ea ch attribute that a c ommittee m ember f eels is s omewhat or v ery de ficient, a s hort e xplanation s hould be p rovided. **Confidential C omment** sections at the bottom of the rubric are provided for explanations of the reasoning behind the overall evaluation of the examinee’s performance if desired. Completed forms are to be treated as **confidential** and are to be **turned in to the Dean (or Dean’s designee)**, not to the student.

All examination documents (rubrics and written comments) must be completed regardless of the outcome of the Dissertation Defense.

A copy of the completed forms (both rubrics and written comments) must be submitted to the College of Graduate Studies Dean (or Dean’s designee), at the conclusion of the dissertation defense.

A s ummary of written comments and overall evaluation from the committee members **will be pr ovided** to the student, Major Advisor, and Graduate Graduate

# Student’s Name: Student’s Graduate Program:

**Thesis/Dissertation ORAL DEFENSE Rubric – Completed by: Date** *(use M/D/YYYY format)***:**

*(To be completed by each committee member & reader. Please check each evaluation criteria that you feel are appropriate within each attribute category)*

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| **Attribute for ORAL** | **Does Not Meet Expectations**  *Provide a short explanation for each attribute that you select in this category.* | **Meets Expectations** | **Exceeds Expectations** |
| **Overall quality of presentation** | Poorly organized Poor presentation  Poor communication skills  Slides and handouts difficult to read | Clearly organized Clear presentation  Good communication skills Slides and handouts clear | Well organized Professional presentation  Excellent communication skills Slides and handouts outstanding |
| **Overall breadth of knowledge** | Presentation unacceptable  Presentation reveals critical weaknesses in depth of knowledge in subject matter  Presentation does not reflect well developed critical thinking skills  Presentation is narrow in scope | Presentation acceptable  Presentation reveals some depth of knowledge in subject matter  Presentation reveals above average critical thinking skills Presentation reveals the ability  to draw from knowledge in  several disciplines | Presentation superior  Presentation reveals exceptional depth of subject knowledge  Presentation reveals well developed critical thinking skills  Presentation reveals the ability to  interconnect and extend knowledge from multiple disciplines |
| **Quality of response to questions** | Responses are incomplete or require prompting Arguments are poorly presented  Respondent exhibits lack of knowledge in subject area  Responses do not meet level expected of degree program of graduate (MS or PhD) | Responses are complete  Arguments are well organized  Respondent exhibits adequate knowledge in subject area Responses meet level expected  of degree program of graduate  (MS or PhD) | Responses are eloquent  Arguments are skillfully presented  Respondent exhibits superior knowledge in subject area Responses exceed level expected of  degree program of graduate (MS or  PhD) |
| **Overall Assessment** | Does not meet expectations | Meets Expectations | Exceeds Expectations |
| **Confidential Comments**: | | | |

**WRITTEN Thesis/Dissertation Rubric – Completed by: Date** *(use M/D/YYYY format)***:**

*(To be completed by each committee member & reader. Please check each evaluation criteria that you feel are appropriate within each attribute category)*

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| **Attribute for WRITTEN** | **Does Not Meet Expectations**  *Provide a short explanation for each attribute*  *that you select in this category.* | **Meets Expectations** | **Exceeds Expectations** |
| **Overall quality of science** | Arguments are incorrect, incoherent, or flawed Objectives are poorly defined  Demonstrates rudimentary critical thinking skills  Does not reflect understanding of subject matter and associated literature  Demonstrates poor understanding of theoretical concepts  Demonstrates limited originality Displays limited creativity and insight | Arguments are coherent and clear Objectives are clear  Demonstrates average critical thinking skills  Reflects understanding of subject matter and associated literature Demonstrates understanding of  theoretical concepts  Demonstrates originality Displays creativity and insight | Arguments are superior Objectives are well defined  Exhibits mature, critical thinking skills  Exhibits mastery of subject matter and associated literature.  Demonstrates mastery of theoretical concepts  Demonstrates exceptional originality  Displays exceptional creativity and insight |
| **Contribution to discipline** | Limited evidence of discovery  Limited expansion upon previous research Limited theoretical or applied significance Limited publication impact | Some evidence of discovery Builds upon previous research  Reasonable theoretical or applied significance  Reasonable publication impact | Exceptional evidence of discovery Greatly extends previous research  Exceptional theoretical or applied significance  Exceptional publication impact |
| **Quality of writing** | Writing is weak  Numerous grammatical and spelling errors apparent  Organization is poor Documentation is poor | Writing is adequate  Some grammatical and spelling errors apparent  Organization is logical Documentation is adequate | Writing is publication quality  No grammatical or spelling errors apparent  Organization is excellent Documentation is excellent |
| **Overall Assessment** | Does not meet expectations | Meets Expectations | Exceeds Expectations |

**Confidential Comments**: